

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining “_” denotes additions and strikethrough “-” denotes deletions).

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An interdiscal tensiometer, comprising:
a load measuring means for measuring load between two points; and
a distance measuring means for measuring distance between said two points;
wherein the load measuring means comprises a pair of primary members
hingedly fixed together.
2. (Currently Amended) An interdiscal tensiometer, comprising:
a pair of primary members being hingedly fixed together, each member ~~one~~ of
said pair of primary members having a contact tine;
a tension measuring device for measuring load of said contact tines;
a distance measuring device for measuring distance between said contact tines;
wherein said contact tines are adapted to engage a pair of intervertebral bodies
such that said load measuring means can measure a load therein and said distance
measuring means can measure a distance therebetween.
3. (Currently Amended) A method of using an interdiscal tensiometer, comprising
the steps of:
providing a pair of primary members being hingedly fixed together, each member
~~one~~ of said pair of primary members having a contact tine ~~time~~;
inserting each of said contact ~~tine~~ tines between at least two vertebral bodies;
measuring a load between said at least two vertebral bodies; and
measuring a distance between said at least two vertebral bodies.
4. (New) The interdiscal tensiometer of claim 1, wherein the members are formed of
stainless steel.

5. (New) The interdiscal tensiometer of claim 1, wherein the members of the pair of primary members are hingedly fixed together with a spring loaded hinge.
6. (New) The interdiscal tensiometer of claim 1, wherein the load measuring device includes a strain gage.
7. (New) The interdiscal tensiometer of claim 2, wherein the members are formed of stainless steel.
8. (New) The interdiscal tensiometer of claim 2, wherein the members of the pair of primary members are hingedly fixed together with a spring loaded hinge.
9. (New) The interdiscal tensiometer of claim 2, wherein the load measuring device includes a strain gage.
10. (New) The method of using an interdiscal tensiometer of claim 3, further comprising inserting a fusion device between the vertebral bodies.
11. (New) The method of using an interdiscal tensiometer of claim 10, wherein the fusion device includes a preload corresponding to the load measured between the vertebral bodies.
12. (New) The method of using an interdiscal tensiometer of claim 10, wherein the fusion device has a thickness corresponding to the distance measured between the vertebral bodies.
13. (New) The method of using an interdiscal tensiometer of claim 10, wherein the fusion device includes a bone graft.

14. (New) The method of using an interdiscal tensiometer of claim 10, wherein the fusion device includes a fusion cage packed with grafting material.

15. (New) The method of using an interdiscal tensiometer of claim 10, wherein the fusion device includes an autograft bone.